(f) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The website is http://tdil.mit.gov.in.

(b) All 22 official Indian languages have been included in the programme.

(c) No. Sir. Gujarati language is included.

(d) and (f) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

Representation on autonomy of TRAI

3846. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations on the autonomy and independence of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);

(b) if so, the action taken on such representations;

(c) whether Government are aware that TRAI being self-governing body is giving presentations to high-level officials and Ministers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the subjects on which such representations have been given by TRAI during the last one year; and

(e) the steps the PMO is contemplating to ensure transparency by ensuring that action of regulatory authorities does not emanate due to the Ministry and is independent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the issues relating to recruitment/selection in Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) *vis-a-vis* its neutrality and fairness were raised in one representation. They were examined in details and it was found that the prescribed procedure for appointment/selection of official in TRAI as given in the TRAI (Officers and Staff Appointment) Regulation, 2001 is being followed by them.

(c) and (d) In discharge of its functions, TRAI has to frame various Regulations and make recommendations based on a clearly defined consultation process involving various stakeholders. TRAI also issues orders and directions in discharge of its functions of regulating the Telecom Sector.

During consultation process, presentations are required to be made to high level officials of Government and Ministers as Government is one of the stakeholders. During the last one year, presentations were given on various issues like Licensing, sharing of spectrum and Unsolicited Commercial Calls etc.

(e) The matter is presently not under active consideration of the Prime Minister's Office.

Waiting list for landline connection in Himachal Pradesh

3847. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people in Himachal Pradesh are giving priority to landline telephone connection as there is waiting list of around 30,000 applicants for landline connection whereas there is no waiting list for mobile and WLL connection;

(b) if so, the exchange-wise details of the waiting list;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to encourage the people to get mobile and WLL connection and to reduce the waiting list for landline connection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. People of Himachal Pradesh are taking fixed as well as mobile connections. With the provision of over 12,000 fixed [landline & wireless in Local Loop (WLL)] connections, waiting list for fixed telephone connections has come down to 25,657 as on 31.03.2007 from 35,837 as on 31.03.2006. There is no waiting list for mobile connections as these are available on demand.